THE LADIES

EQUESTRIAN COMPANION

A.7

Hugh Cecil Earl of Lonsdale.

THIS BOOK RESTORED IN 2020
THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF

CAROL HOLDEN

FURBOR

ON

FEMALE EQUITATION.

APP. 424 (2)

THE LADY'S

Equestrian Companion

OR

GOLDEN KEY

TO

EQUITATION.

BY

PROFESSOR FURBOR,

OF BRIGHTON,

MANY YEARS IN THE 11TH (PRINCE ALBERT'S) HUSSARS.

LONDON

SAUNDERS AND OTLEY, CONDUIT STREET.

1847.

TO

THE LADIES

OF THE

NOBILITY AND GENTRY

OF

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and its Colonies.

LADIES,

As equestrian exercise is daily becoming more general, not only as the most agreeable and healthful recreation, but also as a very graceful accomplishment, if properly attended to, I am induced,

from the earnest solicitation of my numerous pupils, who have proved the correctness of that principle upon which I have ever carried out my instruction, and by the aid of their kind subscriptions, most respectfully to lay this little volume before you; that it may not only always be ready for constant reference, but also that, by your steady perusal of it, it may become what I sincerely hope and trust it will, an

instrument of caution and safety, to guard you against the numerous accidents, frequently fatal, which occur, from the over-venturesome spirit, acquired by self-tuition upon an imperfectly trained horse, and by the non-instructed, or worse, the wrong-instructed upon a trained horse, the owners of which, in most cases, intrust their training to the foreman or groom, being themselves only nominal riding-masters, and as

such incapable of rendering other assistance than that of a companion, with whom, however, the horse you ride being acquainted, you are thus, and thus only, comparatively safe.

I have the honour to subscribe myself,

Ladies,

Most respectfully,

Your obedient,

Devoted Servant,

THE AUTHOR.

1, *Norfolk-road,*
Brighton.

THE LADY'S

EQUESTRIAN COMPANION.

First Lesson.

EQUITATION consists in the ready and skilful application of the Aids, the principles by which the rider is enabled to guide and control her horse correctly in all his paces and movements, and by a settled and

firm seat, afford the support requisite, and truly necessary in every variety of turn, and by a perfect knowledge of which only can you work with any probable degree of safety to either self or horse.

The aids consist in the action and proper application of the hands and legs; thus, as it were, imperceptibly directing and determining the paces and turnings of your horse. The perfect knowledge of this science be-

comes truly requisite for the lady equestrian, in order that, being enabled to afford the above aids, she may have her right hand at liberty with the whip, to bring it in as a substitute for her right leg, which being in the crutch, and on the near side, cannot, thus placed, possibly afford any assistance to the off-side, when the pressure of such leg is not only necessary to support the rider and horse, when urging

the latter into the various paces of walk, trot, canter, and gallop, but indispensable when she brings her horse to the more finished turning, circling, half-passaging, passaging, shoulder in and out, halt or rein-back, as practised in

THE MANEGE.

I cannot possibly proceed further without first strongly drawing your attention to the OPEN MANEGE, as

affording a decided preference to the RIDING SCHOOL, as not only contributing to the health of both rider and horse, but, with a perfect master of the art, as much safer, for it prevents either from depending on the walls, and necessarily inclines the rider to more attention, for her own safety, to the instruction given, and to have recourse to the true aids, which, if carried out, will never fail to prove their own correctness.

The open manège also gives courage, by having various objects in sight, and different sounds in hearing, which seldom, if ever, occur in a riding school, to distract their attention.

It saves also much unnecessary loss of time and expense; for many, having been thus taught, or rather mistaught, in a school, never having worked upon the true aids, but upon the walls, when brought out from

thence, their courage fails; having had no correct system given them, or sights or sounds to distract, they invariably become so lost, that it becomes necessary for them to go through a second and more correct course of instruction; thus cruelly imposing a double task upon the real master, who has to undo all that they have hitherto learnt under an unskilful hand, ere they can in the slightest degree command sufficient

confidence in their own management, should the horse feel but inclined to turn either simply right or left, contrary to the wish of the rider, and thereby render her liable to accidents; and as these, of the most frightful nature, are daily occurring, I feel it indeed a duty doubly incumbent upon me, when thus introducing myself, seriously to warn all against vainly indulging for the moment in the erroneous idea that they

can ride, because they have contrived, in a way, to cling to their saddle, and thereby sit a gentle horse, trained for the purpose, a description of which is, I believe, procurable throughout the United Kingdom or civilized world, and after a fashion riding the same, with an imperfect knowledge, if any at all, in safety: ladies are, through ignorance of what is requisite, thus induced to mount a horse of a dif-

ferent description, which can on the instant detect the inexperience of its rider. Under the circumstances, an accident of the most serious nature, if not even death, is likely to ensue.

And now, dear ladies, as such accidents are also but too often the result of improper saddling and bridling, I beg leave to commence with these subjects under their own immediate heads.

SADDLING.

It is highly necessary that every equestrian should be able to detect when her horse is improperly saddled, in order that thereby she may be in a position to correct any error, by which her life may become endangered, should the saddle turn, from not being properly attended to, more especially when unaccompanied by her own groom, who

ought even to be more particularly acquainted than grooms, generally speaking, are, with that branch of their duty, as she must then submit the work to the numerous stablemen employed about the country, many of whom are totally unacquainted with a lady's saddle, should she have occasion to alight, which is frequently the case, to obtain either rest or refreshment.

The horse, therefore, upon being

brought out, should be led with off-side to you, that you may the more correctly, (from the peculiar construction of the saddle,) and thus with greater ease, examine it.

The saddle should be placed in the middle of the horse's back, with breadth of hand between the flap and play of horse's shoulder.

The girths should admit the play of one finger only between them and horse's belly.

Surcingle and quarter-strap of equal but no greater bearing with girths, and which, if found correct, or, if not, when rendered so—thus, in your presence, the horse may then be turned; but remember, with head towards you, that, if inclined to kick, as many are, when fresh, from playfulness, not vice, you thereby avoid any danger. The horse being now brought with near side to you, I draw your attention to the

BRIDLING;

with snaffle or bridoon, to touch the corners of the mouth without wrinkling; with bit; the mouth-piece one inch above the lower tusk in horses, and two inches above the corner tooth in mares; the head-stall parallel to and behind the cheek-bone; the curb flat and smooth under the jaw, with play of one finger between it and jaw-bone, the

play also of one finger between the nose and nose-band.

Breast-plate; the upper edge of rosette three fingers above the sharp breast-bone of the horse, with breadth of hand between it and flat of the horse's shoulder.

And now, my gentle readers, having seen your horses properly saddled and bridled, ere we can proceed, I must request of you to

MOUNT,

By having your stirrup-leather connected with a belly-band, and which ought to buckle on the off-side to a strap over the surcingle, or else the off-pommel, but not affixed to the quarter-strap, which ought to be stationary; and if otherwise attached to the stirrup, the continued play of left leg must draw the saddle forward.

The off-crutch is becoming that which it very soon will be, obsolete; and I am surprised that it should have remained so long not in use, (for it is none,) but affixed to the saddle, and thereby, with its temptation to beginners, inducing them to fly thereto for safety with their right hand, to keep them, as they imagine, in the saddle, when it has the contrary effect; for the moment the hand rests thereon, as an ima-

ginary aid, it immediately proves itself false, by unsteadying the seat, and thus actually operates as a lever, raising you from the saddle, instead of, as led to imagine it would otherwise do, drawing you down to it, and which, believe me, can only be effected by the one proper position.

I also consider all extra crutches useless, though several have been creeping in of late, but for what purpose I know not, for they can be

needed only by the invalid and cripple, or such as pay no attention to the proper position of the rider; and also those who work not upon the true aids to command a firm seat. But where I most condemn them is in case of the horse falling, as they must then become extremely dangerous, in consequence of forming a greater obstruction to the rider, in extricating herself therefrom, and thus placing her in more immediate

and imminent danger than with a saddle void of such made up artificial support.

The best of horsemen are liable to a throw; yet I may safely say that I never saw a true one cling to anything false, but honestly submit to his defeat.

Therefore, having, I now say, your stirrup-leather sufficiently lengthened for you to place your left foot into the stirrup, with right

hand on cantle, and left hand, with whip, handkerchief and reins therein, upon the crutch, with feeling sufficient only to steady your horse with rein; your left knee pressed to the surcingle, heel drawn back, toes well down, to avoid touching the horse's side; by a spring of the right foot, from the instep, with assistance of both hands; thus placed, you draw yourself into the stirrup with body erect; both knees now

firmly pressed against the saddle, heels well back; then turning the body to the front, you pass your right hand from the cantle, relieving with the same the left of handkerchief, whip, and reins, your right hand then passing to the horse's mane, thus steadying yourself, while the left hand drops to your left side, to adjust your habit; at the same time your right leg passes between your left leg and stirrup-leather to

the front over the crutch, while you bring yourself gently to the saddle, your left knee and toes turning to the front at the same time; the left or bridle hand then receives the whip and reins, while the right hand places the handkerchief into the saddle-pocket, and thereby becoming free, is enabled to take the stirrup up to its proper length, the leather of which coming, as I have already remarked, to a strap on the

off-side, thus leads immediately and conveniently to such hand: the length of the stirrup, if sitting well to your front, and in centre of your saddle, with leg stretched down to position hereafter given, will be found correct, if the lower bar of the stirrup-iron touches the ancle; your right hand then takes the whip; and having done so, I call your attention more strongly to the

POSITION OF RIDER;

And whether riding with snaffle or bit, it is precisely the same, with this one exception, the whip-hand in the former then becomes also an off-bridle hand, upon which, before I commence my second lesson, I shall very forcibly dwell. But now to the

POSITION WITH BIT.

The seat well in the centre of the saddle; head erect and square to the front; eyes commanding fifty yards to the front; shoulders well back; small of back rather hollow; upper part of both arms hanging straight down from the shoulders; elbow of left or bridle-arm bent, and very lightly closed to the hip; little finger

on a line with the elbow; wrist well rounded, throwing the knuckles to the front, with thumb pointing to the right, straight across the body, and three inches only from it; the little finger passing downwards between the reins, bringing the double portion up, through the palm of the hand; throwing the same over the long joint of forefinger, with thumb pressed tightly thereon, the snaffle then becoming a spare rein, the

centre or buckle part of which is thrown in under the thumb, an over the forefinger, thus passing inside, and clear of the pressure upon the bit-rein.

In first taking your bit-reins when seated, with habit adjusted, handkerchief in pocket, and whip in whip-hand, take the centre or bight of the reins with the forefinger and thumb of right or whip-hand, laying at the same time the palm of left or

bridle-hand over; but the little finger of the same between the reins; which done, draw them through the palm of left hand, by right hand, thus acting upon the centre, or bight of the reins, until you gain a light, and thereby only, an equal feeling upon your horse's mouth, with the bridle-hand in position as directed—viz., three inches from your body; the right hand then releases itself from rein, by throwing

the double portion over the long joint of forefinger of the bridle-hand, to the front, with thumb pressed tightly thereon.

The right or whip hand then takes its proper position by dropping down, slightly bent at the elbow, with whip therein, to the horse's off-side, ready to act with a counter-pressure to that of the left leg, which is already placed on the opposite or near side.

The left leg well down from the

hip, the flat or inside of the thigh to the saddle; knee well rounded in, a little bent; leg from the knee hanging straight down, and near the horse's side; heel well down; toes well raised from the instep, and pointing to the horse's shoulder; the foot keeping its place by the play of instep and ancle.

The right-leg knee braced well down to crutch, by also sinking the heel, and raising the toes from in-

step; right knee pointing to horse's neck; lower part of leg, from same, well in.

Body from the left hip, inclining to your right front, except in any turn to your left, or, more particularly, the sudden change; your body must then immediately incline from the right hip to your left front; and thereby gaining strength by ever leaning to that side on which, according to the

motion of the horse, you are not likely to fall.

The position being now corrected, and the bridle hand (with bridle therein placed), I now bring you to the

LINES OF ACTION.

The little finger of the bridle-hand having four to work upon—viz.,

1st. To the rider's breast.

2nd. To the horse's head.

3rd. To the rider's right shoulder.

4th. To the rider's left shoulder.

These, if strictly attended to, will at once prove their own correctness, and you can thereby, with a steady application of whip or leg, or both, as the assistance may be required, move your horse in so masterly a style, that the looker-on cannot detect the means by which you control the animal. So almost talismanic is the power possessed by the imper-

ceptible fineness of hand, with the determined pressure of leg and whip, by the finished equestrian, upon her steed, worked upon the true aids, that indeed she may claim for herself, and really merit from an admiring world, the saying, that the rider and horse move as one.

And as we are now commencing the lesson, and you are already mounted and prepared, I introduce you immediately to the First Line

of Action—viz., No. 1, the little finger inclining towards your own breast, thus lightly feeling upon your horse's mouth, accompanied by pressure of leg and whip, equal, but merely sufficient to keep your horse up to the bit, and thus compel him to stand steady and square under you. From this we will proceed to the—

WALK.

In moving forward, the little finger inclines in the direction given in No. 2, the hand turning upon the wrist, thus to ease the reins for an instant, with equal but stronger pressure of leg and whip, to urge your horse onward, and upon his answering to this manœuvre by moving off, the hand must immediately resume its position, and with a light feeling:

the little finger now leading inward to No. 1, you engage your horse's attention by a muscular action of the bridle hand from the wrist, and particularly from the third and fourth fingers well closed, but by rounding them into the palm; and thus working upon the reins with those fingers (which come immediately upon them), you afford a light playfulness to your horse's mouth, and command that hand which is so

truly requisite for the management of your horse, aided by a continual pressure of leg and whip to keep him up to the bit.

At the walk, you may turn or circle to the right or left with equal safety, by a double feeling of the inward rein, and stronger pressure of the outward leg—viz., the finger of bridle hand, if leading to Nos. 3 or 4, must be supported by the left leg or the whip, the strongest; if

the hand inclines to No. 3, to guide to the right, the left leg supports; if to No. 4, to guide to the left, the whip then supports, as a substitute for the right leg, the outward rein steadily assisting as a support. In this the beauty and correctness of the bridle hand are truly displayed; for while the inward rein leads, the hand, if working true, by a steady feeling of the outward rein, at the same time also affords support.

And, ladies, how different this from the general practice of those whom you daily—nay—hourly see, and at the risk of their own lives, guiding by a wide action of the arm right or left, similar to mowing, thus drawing the off or near rein over the horse's neck, making him look to the right or left certainly, but the contrary way to which he ought—viz., if to the left, by a wide motion of the arm to the left, bringing the

right or off-rein tight over the horse's neck, and thus affording no support, but otherwise forcing him to look to the right, when he ought to look to the left, as also rendering the left rein, which ought to lead, at the same time quite loose, and therefore, totally unserviceable.

I dwell upon this more particularly, shuddering as I do with horror, when I am so constantly seeing the same practised, and that by the side

even of teachers, being aware as I am, and hope you will now also be, of the danger likely to accrue therefrom; many pupils having come to me, and persisting in this, as well as other errors, from misinstruction, not until convinced by sharp practice at the different turns (and by thus placing them, pointing out at the same time the danger,) will they ever allow themselves to be corrected, or acknowledge themselves wrong.

There is another practice, also, of raising the whip-hand to the off-bit rein to guide the horse to the right, and very often applied to both.

And now, ladies, from the WALK, we will gently press our horses into the

TROT,

by easing the reins, as in the foregoing, by little finger inclining to No. 2, pressing the leg and whip

equally, but more firmly to the pace required; then feel the reins to raise the forehand—arm steady, the play and support coming from the wrist.

At the trot you may also turn or circle, as at the walk, and with the same aids. The trot must be true and regular; the horse occasionally restrained by the hand, and urged by the equal pressure of leg and whip, to lighten his shoulders, and give a greater weight to the haunches, thus

preparing him for the turns, and giving him that graceful ease which, by proper attention of the hand and legs, you are enabled to do. And now to the

CANTER.

A light and firm feeling here of both reins is requisite; the little finger, therefore, leads to No. 1, first to raise the fore-hand, with pressure equally of leg and whip, to

bring his haunches well under him. If you require your horse to strike off, with the right foot leading, then a double feeling of the inward or right rein, by the changing from No. 1 to No. 3, with stronger pressure of the outward or left leg, to force him off, true and connected; but if to strike off with the left foot leading, the aids must be reversed, as the then inward rein will be the left, and outward leg the whip; and

thus in the change from the right foot leading, to the left foot doing so, the hand must immediately lead from No. 3 to No. 1, with equal pressure of leg and whip; again to check and thus raise the forehand; and from which the hand then leads to No. 4 with stronger pressure of whip, and thus you compel him, by the contrary aids, to lead off with the opposite or now wanted left foot; always careful in first applying the

pressure of the leg and whip; but such failing, you may then apply a smart blow from left heel or whip, just behind the girth, as may be found requisite from either or both.

I feel that perhaps, unless rather more explicit upon the change, I may be misunderstood, and thereby lead you into danger; but in order to avoid this, and as it is of the greatest consequence in this the only pace where applicable, I wish it to

appear as clear as possible: thus, the hand shifting from No. 3 to first No. 1 is, as in the first instance of commanding the canter, to give a momentary check and support to the forehand, assisted by an equal pressure of leg and whip; thus preparing him, previous to your reversing the aids; otherwise, by suddenly shifting the bridle-hand at once from No. 3 to No. 4, you would give the horse no time or support

to make the necessary change with safety; therefore, after the hand shifts from No. 3 to No. 1, and you feel the forehand stayed, apply then a strong pressure of whip, with double feeling of left rein; hand working to No. 4; you will thus bring him to the change, and by reversing the same aids, you may take him back again.

While treating upon this subject, allow me more particularly to draw

your attention to the necessity of your becoming thoroughly acquainted with the aids, as in this pace, the canter, you can turn or circle only, according as the horse leads; for example, if the horse's right foot leads, you may with safety turn or circle to the right, as also by the same rule, turn or circle to the left, if the left foot leads; but otherwise, your horse crosses his legs, and by so doing, it is indeed

miraculous if he does not throw himself, whereby the rider, perhaps, not only loses a valuable animal for ever, but at the same time places that which is of far greater consequence, her own life, in jeopardy; and that through what? Ignorance!

Therefore, my gentle readers, be advised in time; and until you have obtained sufficient knowledge to bring your horse correctly to the CHANGE, always come to the trot or walk, in

which paces you are safe, ere you rashly attempt, at the imminent peril of your lives, to turn to the left, with the right foot leading; and to this mode of progression, be it remarked, all ladies' horses are trained.

Or, if you can manage the circle by affording the necessary aids, pass the turning, and then by a half circle right, thus doubling upon it, you make that which was a left turn, now, a right one, and, with-

out any alteration or diminution of pace, in a masterly style, you command your object, and with safety; but be careful that, in this half circle, the horse must be well supported by the outward leg, (the left,) as also the outward or left rein, with a double feeling of the inward, or right rein, to afford which, the muscular action of the third and fourth fingers of the bridle hand, acting upon the reins, will

be found of great service in coming round.

ON CIRCLING.

The foregoing having brought me to this subject, I wish to explain, that, on going to the right, your horse should lead off with the right, or off fore-foot, followed by the off-hind; in going to the left, with the left, or near fore-foot, followed by the near-hind. In cantering to the

left, if he leads with both off-feet, he is false, or if to the right with both near-feet, the same, cantering with the near-fore foot, followed by the off-hind, or off-fore foot followed by near hind, your horse is disunited. In the circle, the hind feet to follow in the track of the fore feet; if you find the haunches thrown within the circle too much, you throw too great a strain on the hind quarters; and if the haunches are thrown with-

out the circle too much, you allow the strain on the shoulders, which must be avoided by the proper application of bridle-hand, and pressure of leg or whip as laid down, and will be more particularly understood in my Second Lesson—"THE BENDING." And now, being still in the Canter, suppose we increase our pace to the GALLOP.

GALLOP.

As far as relates to this pace, it is the same as the Canter, only that in the latter the figure is more collected and shortened, the forehand raised, neck arched, head drawn in, and moving by the spring of his haunches.

In this pace, the gallop, you may incline your body a little more forward, but preserve the position

of legs; heels well down, toes well raised, knees well in; watching for, and thus ready to guard against any change in the horse; body steady, but prepared to incline to the left front, should he change, and perhaps turn to the left; with then steady pressure of whip to support, until you bring him back again with the necessary aids, as laid down in the preceding pages—viz., by checking the forehand; hand leading to

No. 1, with then double feeling to No. 3, and stronger pressure of left leg, with body coming to the right front, its original bearing.

Should your horse feel inclined to steal upon your hand in the gallop, and thus evince an inclination to run away, check him in time, by bringing your body upright, legs well down, close in, but steady; heels well down, with little finger of bridle-hand leading upwards, from

the wrist to No. 3, thus making your horse dwell upon the hand, until you bring him again to the more collected canter; and from which, the hand changing to No. 1, with equal pressure of leg and whip; to avoid throwing him too much or suddenly on his hind quarters, you bring him steadily to the WALK, and by a still same feeling, but more determined, as also pressure of leg and whip, you thus immediately com-

mand the HALT; which done, on the instant ease your bridle-hand to No. 2, as also the pressure of leg and whip, to allow your horse, without fretting, to remain steady and square under you; then, sitting yourself at ease, you may pass your whip into bridle-hand, thus enabling you to caress, and make much of him with the same right hand, now free of whip, by patting him on the neck; and so by frequent encou-

ragement, you may almost command the noble animal to anything. And now, ladies, while at the halt, allow me to call your attention to the

REIN-BACK,

more especially, as it assists you to bring the horse's haunches well under him, as also wonderfully improves the bridle-hand, convincing you at once its power is in the correctness of its working; and that if

properly applied, according to the rules here laid down, no more strength is required than would suffice to break a thread, or scarce that, to command even the horse, as in all other instances, to step backward.

This must, however, be done with great caution, and slowly, more particularly at first, to avoid raising the hand to No. 1, as thereby you would throw too great a weight

upon the hind quarters, for which you must gradually prepare the horse; but let your hand come inwardly from the wrist, thus giving a light feeling upon both reins, with equal pressure of leg and whip; thereby raising the forehand, and keeping the haunches well under him: upon the horse stepping back, you ease the reins, meeting him with a pressure of leg and whip; and thus, by an alternate feeling and pressure,

you steadily command the REIN-BACK, with horse square under you.

In advancing from the same, be careful to keep his head well up, with pressure of leg and whip, to bring his haunches well under him; and from this, coming again to the HALT, let me introduce you while there to the

RIGHT-ABOUT-TURN;

and as the horse is now to work upon his own ground, being required to turn entirely upon his centre, a double feeling of the inward or right rein, and stronger pressure of whip, are required, thus compelling him to turn round your whip as inward leg; horse's hind and fore feet thus circling, your whip the centre, supported by the out-

ward leg and rein; whereas the right-turn on the move, as in the walk, trot, canter, &c., requires a double feeling of the inward rein, the outward retaining a steady feeling; keeping the horse well up to the hand, with pressure of leg and whip, but the outward then the strongest, to prevent the horse throwing his haunches too much out; and by the same rule you command the

LEFT-ABOUT, OR LEFT-TURN,

By applying the contrary aids. When your horse leans upon your hand, and thereby prevents himself from being properly collected, you should immediately correct him by keeping him well up to the bit, with strong pressure of leg and whip; that failing, rein him back two or three paces, and then press him forward, being careful that, as soon as

you find your horse yield to the hand, the hand also ought as immediately to yield to him.

And now, feeling that the hand is, or ought to be, from the foregoing practice, sufficiently prepared, we will try the

LEAP.

In the standing leap, your horse should be brought up in the walk at an animated pace; if impatient, halt

him, and then rein back, and so on until you are able to bring him coolly up; for should you allow him to rush, or be in the least hurry, he will surely become an unsafe, because uncertain leaper. Therefore bring him up, halting him with a light hand, on his haunches, with pressure of leg and whip; when rising, feel the reins only so much as not to leave them slack; when the horse springs, yield the bridle-

hand well to him by same inclining to No. 2; when the hind-feet reach the ground, collect your horse again by hand resuming its position, immediately inclining to No. 1, and by a pressure of leg and whip, to keep him up to the bit, you move off at the same pace as that at which you brought him up, previous to your halting. As your horse rises, let your body incline forward; and as he alights, back-

wards — the hand working upon Nos. 1 and 2.

THE FLYING LEAP.

Great caution is here particularly necessary in not allowing your horse to rush; he must see his task, and prepare himself for it.

Therefore, take him up as collectedly as possible; head steadily to it, with a light-hand; position, the same as in the STANDING LEAP.

When your horse has made his leap, be careful, and avoid anything like a violent check, as he would take that as a punishment, and very likely refuse the next leap you put him to; therefore, caress him all you can, and thus encourage his noble efforts.

Having dwelt upon the inclining forward and backward of your body at the LEAP, let me also, while upon it, remind you that the same is

required in working up or down hill.

Up hill, give your horse the bridle-hand freely, as also the weight upon his shoulders by inclining your body well forward; if very steep, steady yourself with the bridle-hand on the horse's mane; but on no account, at such a time, on your pommel, or the crutch of your saddle.

On going down hill, a light and fine feeling of bridle-hand, with body

inclining well back, throwing the weight on the hind quarters, and thus relieving the shoulders, in order that they may the more readily perform their task. I now come to

SOUNDS.

The horse being naturally timid, and fearful of sounds, must not by harsh treatment have his fears increased; but, by gentle treatment, and patient means, finding that they

do him no harm, and are not accompanied by chastisement, he soon becomes familiar, and hears them without the slightest alarm; as also

SIGHTS,

By the same kind treatment, but applying the aids, according as the object feared may require.

SHYING.

Should the object shied at be in

front, keep the horse's head to it by a strong and equal pressure of leg and whip, the bridle-hand inclining to No. 2 to ease the reins, but ready to work to either Nos. 3 or 4, to meet him, should he be inclined to turn from it, with then stronger pressure of leg or whip, whichever, according to his inclination to turn, may become the inward rein, and outward leg — viz., if the object should be on the right or off-side of

the road, you then require the right or off-rein, the strongest, hand inclining to No. 3, with greater pressure of left leg. If the object is on the left, or near side, you then require a double feeling of the near rein, hand inclining to No. 4, with stronger pressure of whip.

KICKING.

The little finger of bridle-hand inclining to No. 1, body well back-

ward, with pressure of leg and whip, hand ready to ease the rein by inclining to No. 2, the moment the horse answers the pressure, and moves forward, which will soon occur, if he finds his kicking has no effect upon the rider; both hand and body should then immediately resume position.

REARING.

The body well forward, hand inclined to No. 2, to ease the reins, accompanied by equal pressure of leg and whip. Upon the horse coming down, be careful not to feel him too suddenly, or you will bring him up again, but keep the hand eased, until you gently press him forward, when your hand and body may again resume position.

If your horse should rear very high, you may steady your balance with bridle-hand on horse's mane, thus taking all possible feeling from your horse's mouth, and consequently being less likely to pull him over. Should he, however, play well with his feet, by throwing them out to the front, little or no danger is to be apprehended, if the hand is light and correct, as there is no probability of the horse coming over,

unless the heaviness of rider's hand pull him over; but should your horse bend, or knuckle his fore legs and feet under him, when coming up, there is danger, for, with the lightest hand and best seat in the world, such horse is ever likely to come over, and crush you by his backward fall. All such horses I warn you against; but having them, as the best cure, turn them into harness; rather, however, have them

shot, than endanger your own dear lives by riding them.

In India, I have seen, and tried myself, the experiment of breaking earthenware vessels filled with water upon their heads, while in the act of rearing; as also springing from the saddle, when up, retaining a hold of the rein, and thereby pulling them over on their heads; but the latter practice is much more likely to kill than to cure.

And now, ladies, fearful that you may become fatigued, or that you are already so, let me recommend you to alight; for which purpose, I call your attention to the

DISMOUNT,

By taking your handkerchief out of pocket, as also reins, with right hand, relieving your right leg from crutch, and left foot from stirrup; your left hand now free from bridle,

clearing the habit from stirrup-leather, &c., and raising it above the stirrup-iron, that when you alight, you may avoid treading upon it, or otherwise entangling your feet. With right hand resting on crutch; reins, whip, and handkerchief therein, you gently slide down, thus supported by right hand on crutch; when, releasing the right hand from bridle-rein and crutch, but retaining your whip and handkerchief, you take

up your habit; and in walking away from your horse, I sincerely hope that you will carry with you this my First Lesson, and that it has made sufficient impression to induce you to enter upon the more finished portion of the science. If so, nothing will afford me, ladies, greater pleasure, than to accompany you through the second or bending lesson, when you have partaken of that rest and refreshment, neces-

sary after the fatigue of the foregoing.

In the meantime, a word, according to promise, about the

SNAFFLE;

and perhaps, as I introduce it between lessons, you will kindly oblige me by more particularly attending to it.

In no one instance ride upon both snaffle and bit together, unless you

take the off-snaffle rein into the right hand, leading inside and under the bit-rein, between the third and fourth fingers, and passing over the long joint of forefinger, with thumb pressed thereon; the near-snaffle rein passing with near bit-rein, outside the little finger of proper bridle-hand, and over the long joint of fore-finger, and under pressure of thumb with double portion of bit-rein, thereby having an equal feeling of

it with bit-reins, while you also command the same from off snaffle-rein in your right hand, thus enabling you to feel your horse's mouth wholly upon the bit or snaffle singly, by easing the one down to that which you wish to ride upon, or both by obtaining an equal feeling, and the snaffle having, as it should have, both hands applied thereto.

But as you command all that

perfection from your horse with bit-reins and one hand the proper bridle-hand—viz., the left; therefore, ere you dream of carrying out, and by such dream, attempt the same with snaffle, I give you this caution: you require both hands. The soldier, by the use of both his legs in assistance to the left or proper bridle-hand, working (as you have now been taught) upon the bit-rein, his right hand being free, is

thus at liberty, and thus only, with sword, or any other weapon with which he may be armed, to protect his life against an opposing force; but he would not be so if that hand were otherwise employed upon the reins. So you also, my kind readers,—if wishing to bring your horses to the same state of perfection,—should confine yourselves to the bit-rein, that you may the more forcibly bring your right hand with

whip in as a substitute—a strong substitute—for your right leg, and thereby more ably defend yourselves against your horses, the only enemies, I trust, you may ever have thus to contend with; and by which means only can you become, within any degree of probability, capable of preserving your valuable lives, whenever exposed to danger from your horse.

But should you at any time feel

inclined to ease your horse's mouth from the bit, and ride on the snaffle, I only implore you, in the eyes of a discerning world, to ride with it, as it ought to be ridden with, and thus afford the horse that support which is necessary in all his paces, but more especially in his turning, circling, &c., and which can all be commanded; as also in the Bending Lesson, with the snaffle; but with both hands ap-

plied only for safety and correctness. The

POSITION WITH SNAFFLE

is precisely the same as with BIT, only that the right, or whip-hand being now rounded to the front, corresponding with the left, as with it, it now works as an off bridle-hand: hands six inches apart, and three inches from the body; thumbs pointing inward, little fingers on a

line with the elbows; the play of hands coming from the wrist.

At the WALK or TROT, as also the HALT and REIN-BACK, the hands remain in position given — namely, level, with an equal feeling or easing, working to Nos. 1 or 2, as laid down in the bit-practice, (when using the one hand,) with pressure of leg and whip the same; but in the CANTER or GALLOP, TURNS and CIRCLES, whichever way your horse

is leading that hand, the inward one is then lowered, while the outward hand retains its steady position to support. For example: if to the right, your right hand is then lowered, thumb in line with little finger of left hand, with playful feeling upon the mouth, by that muscular action already treated on, while the left hand, with outer rein, steadily supports, assisted by a stronger pressure of left or out-

ward leg; the hand working to either right or left; the little finger inclining to its own respective shoulder, whichever way leading; the other retaining its position steadily to support.

And now, ladies, before I conclude, I call your attention to the foregoing, trusting that, for your own dear sakes, you will become thoroughly acquainted with the whole AIDS, and being thus enabled

to put the same into practice, you will attain that which I always wish to see—viz., a perfect command of one of the most graceful accomplishments of the day.

I trust, also, that you will not treat too lightly a subject which requires so much attention, more especially as your very lives may depend upon it. When riding upon snaffle, and bit-rein accompanying, the latter then becomes a spare rein,

centre thrown over long joint of fore-finger (of left or proper bridle-hand) and under the thumb; inside, the pressure of same upon near or left snaffle-rein.

SECOND

OR

BENDING LESSON.

It may be well here to explain, that lightness of hand, consisting, as I have already said, in an almost imperceptible feeling, and alternate easing of the bridle, according to the motion, by which the horse's mouth is preserved, must indeed, here, in

this the more finished part of the art, be strictly attended to; for with other than the light and truly perfect hand, it would be useless for me, or any one else, to expect a correct working of your horse. I therefore now commence with

THE BEND.

It is made from the poll of the neck, bending and unbending gradually. The motion of the inward

hand should be by turning the little finger to No. 3, if to the right; to No. 4, if to the left; nails upward, by a movement from the wrist; arm perfectly steady: in moving forward, you ease the hand to No. 2, with pressure of leg and whip, and then to

RIGHT SHOULDER IN.

The horse's head to be brought inward to the right, with the inward or right rein and whip, the left leg

and rein supporting; then to be led off with the outward or left rein; the whip presses the horse to cross his legs, while the outward or left leg keeps him up to the hand; the horse to be well bent, shoulders leading; the inward or right leg crosses over the outward or left leg. If the horse is too square, meet him with the outward or left leg, and thus check the haunches, while the outward or left rein leads off the

shoulders; from which we will proceed to

PASS SHOULDER OUT;

A double feeling of the outward rein, and double pressure of the outward leg, supported by the inward leg (the whip), and rein, turning on the centre; when turned, lead off with the inward rein. From Pass Shoulder Out to

SHOULDER IN,

A double feeling of the inward rein, and double pressure of the whip, supported by the outward leg and rein; the horse turns on his centre; when turned, lead off with the left or outward rein. And now, being again at the Right Shoulder In, we will come to the

RIGHT HALF-PASS;

You press your horse forward with both legs, and when entered in the new line with his fore-feet, your left leg must be pressed to bring the quarters into the proper oblique direction with the fore-feet; the fore and hind-feet moving on two diagonal lines; the right rein leads, and bends, while the left leg, with pressure, compels the horse to carry

his left foot before the right; the left rein assisting and balancing the power of the right; the whip keeping him up to the hand, thus making him advance at the same time he is passing to the right; when you arrive at the opposite side of manège or road, change the position of your horse's head with the left rein, and pressure of whip, (as right leg.) And now, working to the left, we come to the

LEFT SHOULDER IN,

By staying the fore-hand with the left rein, changing thus the position of the horse's head, circling the croup round, with pressure of left leg; then lead off with the (now outward) right rein, the inward rein and left leg, forcing him to cross his legs; while the whip, now, as right and outward leg, keeps him up to the hand. From this we come to the

LEFT PASS,

By closing the whip, and leading the horse off with left rein, passing boldly and square on a straight line. The left rein bends and leads, while the right balances and assists. The whip makes the horse cross his legs, the right or outward in front of left or inward; the left leg keeps him up to the hand. At the word *forward* from the pass, ease the reins

for a moment, and with a pressure of both leg and whip to urge him onward, I next bring you to the

RIGHT PASS.

Having again resumed position of the hand, you now close your left leg, leading off with the right rein, keeping your horse up to the bit with your whip. At the word "forward," meet him with your whip, and then inward or left rein, bring-

ing him thus ready to work again to the left, and, consequently, prepared for the

LEFT HALF-PASSAGE,

By pressing the horse forward with both legs; and when entered into the new line with his fore-feet, your whip must be pressed, to bring the quarters into the proper oblique direction with the fore-feet, the fore and hind feet moving again on

two diagonal lines, as in the right half-passage, only that the aids are now reversed, the left rein leading and bending, while the whip presses the right foot before the left; the right rein assisting and balancing the power of the left, while the left leg keeps him up to the hand, thus making him advance at the same time that he is passing to the left, from which you may again bring him to the right shoulder-in, by

changing position of head with the right rein, and pressure of whip; left leg supporting, that I may prove the turn on the fore-hand, by the inward or right rein staying the same, while the inward leg, the whip, circles the croup; and when turned, lead your horse off again by the outward or left rein; from which I again bring you to the right pass, to prove the turn in the passage, and which is on the haunches; there-

fore, from the right shoulder-in to the right pass, you close the left leg, leading him off with the right rein, and while on the passage getting the word right-turn the whip stays the hind quarters, while with a double feeling of the right or inward rein, you circle the fore-hand with outward or left leg, to keep the haunches from flying out.

And now, my kind readers, having thus sufficiently introduced you to

the bending lesson, and therein shown you what can be performed upon your horse, and also pointed out the three ways in which the animal may be turned—viz., on his centre, fore-hand, and haunches; the first, as in the turn from right shoulder-in to pass shoulder-out; the second, in the right or left shoulder-in; and the third, on the right or left passage; I trust that a careful study of the instructions I have thus clearly

laid down, assisted by practice, will ensure your becoming not only elegant, but good horsewomen, so that by a strong seat and proper management you may now more easily, not only command your horse, but attain that gracefulness so truly essential to the lady equestrian.

Before I conclude, I beg leave, most respectfully, to offer a few remarks, based upon thirty years' experience, which I trust will be

well received, as I have no earthly motive in making them, beyond a wish for your safety.

Thousands there are in this, and I dare say, many other countries, who venture upon horses' backs, led away with the idea, I firmly believe, that they have only to sit quiet, and thus become equestrians, as if by instinct; thinking that instruction is quite unnecessary—many even have thus expressed themselves; but

I have, I am thankful to say, for their own sakes, been enabled to convince them of their error, and bring them to an acknowledgment of it. And this book, also, I sincerely trust, will incline all who may peruse it, having entertained the same opinion, for the sake of their own safety, to think otherwise. And as, with humble deference, I submit (and if wrong am ever open to correction) to such, among, I may say, the

boldest riders, and strongest seats, for cross-country, straight-forward riding, with which the united kingdom abounds, and of which it may justly boast, in the face of the whole world; yet I do and will maintain, self-taught as they are, and upon which they justly pride themselves, they are wrong in imagining that ladies can, from the very way in which they are seated in their saddle, have the same, or anything like the

same power with themselves. They ought, more especially, to study the aids, which, if tried, will always prove themselves true, and with which, the best cross-country, straight-forward rider the world ever produced, will become the better and more finished horseman; the sooner he claims the acquaintance, the sooner will he prove what I have said to be true, and by thus applying his right leg where I have

requested you, ladies, to bring in your whip, as a substitute only for the leg, with which gentle hint you may thus, by a steady application of the rules laid down for your own instruction, be enabled to convey the same, for their advancement and more finished style of riding, to the many who ought to be capable of rendering more assistance than they generally do, when accompanying you in your equestrian

exercise. In conclusion, this brings me immediately to the

RIDING-MASTER,

one who ought to be consulted as the physician, (acquit me, ye learned and much respected members of the faculty, from any presumptuous idea in thus drawing the comparison,) for it is a case of life and death, as it were, between him and his pupil; thus, as the wise patient sends for

the learned physician, or man of sound practical knowledge; so also let me advise you, wise pupils, to seek the true teacher of riding, and with this little Guide, I trust you may always be enabled to prove his ability ere you allow yourselves to be too far led into error by false instruction, and thereby embrace, not avoid, continual danger.

To you, parents, do I particularly address myself, and hope, sincerely

hope, this Guide will ever lead you to select the perfect master, whose talent may always enable him honestly to soar above the pretenders by whom he is ever surrounded, to whom he cannot lend himself. I recommend military men, as being acquainted with the aids, and therefore, ladies, the only parties capable of properly carrying out the lessons; but above all, I warn you particularly against those who, call-

ing themselves masters, forfeit their own respectability and profession, if efficient, by allowing their place to be filled by any one save themselves. You should be convinced, not only of a Riding-Master's capability, but of his respectability, before you patronize him, or allow your daughters to ride in his company, removed from the eyes of parents and guardians. If not efficient, he has no business in the field, for no other

teacher has a greater confidence or charge placed in him, for he is entrusted with his pupil's safety, and none other so much requires the gentleman, if not by birth, at least by acquirement. All confidence must be forfeited, the moment he loses sight of the respect due to you, ladies, by allowing his servants to fill his place by your sides, thus turning his riding-mastership into a mere pound, shilling, and pence sys-

tem, and leaving you, I am afraid, worse riders, and less capable of encountering difficulties than if you had never been near him. To say the least of it, he degrades himself by raising his menials to his own level, at the same time that he treats you with gross effrontery.

In conclusion, having spoken of the whip, as a strong substitute for the right leg, let me recommend the sort, by introducing you to that

which Mr. Jeffery, No. 6, St. James's-street, Brighton, Saddler, or Messrs. Swaine and Isaac, Whip Manufacturers, 185, Piccadilly, London, have received instructions to show, as the one approved of by me.

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